

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)

An anchoring element for use in bone, the anchoring element comprising:

a first surface having a distal end and a proximal end, at least a portion of the first surface including a first external thread having a pitch;

an abutment surface disposed toward the proximal end of the first surface;

an annular second surface disposed toward the distal end of the first surface and joined to the first surface along an outer circumference of the second surface;

a third surface concentric with the first surface and joined to the second surface along an inner circumference of the second surface; surface, at least a portion of the third surface including an internal thread having the pitch of the first external thread; and

a fourth surface disposed between the distal end and the proximal end of the first surface and joined to the third surface along an outer circumference of the fourth surface.

Claim 2. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 1 wherein the first surface includes a frustrated first conical portion adjacent the distal end such that a smaller circumference of the first conical portion is adjacent the distal end.

Claim 3. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 1 wherein the third surface includes a frustrated second conical portion adjacent the distal end such that a larger circumference of the second conical portion is adjacent the distal end.

4. (Currently Amended)

The anchoring element of claim 1 wherein ~~at least a portion of the third surface includes an internal thread having the pitch of the first external thread.~~ the internal thread and the first external thread are such that both threads will advance the anchoring element at the same rate as the anchoring element is rotated to embed the anchoring element into bone.

Claim 5. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 4 wherein the internal thread is self-threading.

Claim 6. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 1 wherein the fourth surface is annular,
the anchoring element further comprising:
a fifth surface concentric with the first surface and joined to the fourth surface along an inner circumference of the fourth surface; and
a sixth surface disposed toward the distal end of the first surface and joined to the fifth surface along an outer circumference of the sixth surface.

Claim 7. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 6 wherein the fifth surface includes a frustrated third conical portion adjacent the distal end such that a smaller circumference of the third conical portion is adjacent the distal end..

Claim 8. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 6 wherein the first surface, the second surface, the third surface, and the fourth surface are on a first part, the fifth surface and the sixth surface are on a second part, and the fifth surface is placed adjacent to the fourth surface by passing the second part through the first part.

Claim 9. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 6 wherein the first surface, the second surface, and the third surface are on a first part, the fourth surface, the fifth surface, and the sixth surface are on a second part, and the fourth surface is placed adjacent to the third surface by passing the second part through the first part.

Claim 10. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 6 wherein at least a portion of the third surface includes a first internal thread having the pitch of the first external thread and at least a portion of the fifth surface includes a second external thread having the pitch of the first external thread.

Claim 11. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 1 wherein the abutment surface is at an angle to an axis from the proximal end to the distal end of the first surface.

12. (Currently Amended)

An anchoring element suitable for placement in a prepared molar socket that includes interradicular bone, the anchoring element comprising:

abutment means for receiving a dental prosthesis;

first means for threadedly engaging an outer wall of the molar socket;

second means for bearing against a bottom surface of the molar socket; and

third means for ~~bearing against~~ threadedly engaging a first surface of the interradicular bone that generally faces the outer wall of the molar socket.

Claim 13. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 12 wherein the first means includes a frustrated first conical portion adjacent the second means such that a smaller circumference of the first conical portion is adjacent the second means.

Claim 14. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 12 wherein the third means is further for compressing the interradicular bone.

15. (Currently Amended)

The anchoring element of claim 12 wherein the first and third means ~~is~~ are further for ~~threadedly engaging the first surface of the interradicular bone, advancing the anchoring~~ element at the same rate as the anchoring element is rotated to embed the anchoring element into bone.

Claim 16. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 15 wherein the third means is further for cutting a thread in the first surface of the interradicular bone.

Claim 17. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 12 further comprising:

fifth means for bearing against a side wall of a hole prepared in the interradicular bone.

Claim 18. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 17 wherein the fifth means is further for compressing the interradicular bone.

Claim 19. (Original):

The anchoring element of claim 17 wherein the fifth means is further for threadedly engaging the side wall of the hole in the interradicular bone.

Claim 20. (Original):

A method for placing an anchoring element to receive a dental prosthesis in a molar socket that includes interradicular bone, the method comprising:

cutting a generally cylindrical outer wall in the molar socket to receive a first surface of the anchoring element, the first surface having a distal end and a proximal end, at least a portion of the first surface including a first external thread having a pitch;

cutting a generally annular flat surface in the molar socket at a distal end of the cylindrical outer wall to receive an annular second surface of the anchoring element, the second surface being disposed toward the distal end of the first surface and joined to the first surface along an outer circumference of the second surface;

cutting a generally cylindrical surface on the interradicular bone that generally faces the outer wall of the molar socket to receive a third surface of the anchoring element, the third surface being concentric with the first surface and joined to the second surface along an inner circumference of the second surface;

placing the anchoring element into the molar socket by screwing the first surface into the outer wall of the molar socket until the second surface of the anchoring element bears against the annular flat surface in the molar socket and the third surface of the anchoring element bears against the cylindrical surface on the interradicular bone.